

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO† BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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EXCERPTS FROM EDITORIAL NOTES

Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting.—It is indeed a misfortune that every doctor in the State of California could not have attended the forty-eighth session of the State Medical Society at Santa Barbara, April 15, 16 and 17. Full reports and minutes of the House of Delegates will appear in the June issue of the Journal. Early publication of the papers from this session will be favored by increase in the size of the Journal for the ensuing three months. These papers are the property of the State Medical Society, and should be immediately sent to the Journal office. Most of them have been received. Their publication elsewhere is unlawful without permission from the Journal. . . .

League Luncheon.—Probably no other single feature of the State Society meeting at Santa Barbara attracted so much attention beforehand, so large an attendance at the time, and so universally favorable comment as the luncheon given by the League for the Conservation of Public Health on April 16 at the Hotel Belvedere. . . .

The keynote of the impression made on the layman was voiced by Hon. P. H. McCarthy, president of the State Building Trades Council of California, who, in an eloquent and ringing address on "Labor's Contribution to Health Conservation," stated he had felt for years that he knew and thoroughly understood the doctor. . . .

Hon. Wm. A. Beasley, president of the California State Conference of Social Agencies, dwelt on the strategic position of the physician in social welfare work, and the good work of the League already accomplished as well as coming. The purposes and mission of the League were eloquently described by Drs. Graves, James Franklin Smith and Dudley Smith. . . .

Hospital Improvement and Standardization.—There is no argument among well-trained physicians and surgeons as to the desirability and necessity of improving and standardizing hospital service. Widespread and equally widely recognized abuses have grown with the growth of our present hospital system, and too often seem an integral part of that system. If the hospital, as a social institution, is to exist and develop, these abuses must be corrected. That they will be corrected as the medical profession awakes to the situation, goes without saying. . . .

War Lessons in Public Health.—The press, both medical and popular, has duly emphasized the great impetus resulting from the war in matters pertaining to public health. It is unnecessary to recount the various practical illustrations of what doctors and public alike have learned from the war in this field. The pivotal position of the medical profession has been abundantly evident in the military service, both army and navy, not only in cure

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

Historical reminiscences, papers and other archives will be welcomed by the C.M.A. Committee on History, to whom such should be sent. Address same to the Committee's Secretary, Dr. George H. Kress, Room 2004, 450 Sutter, San Francisco, 8.

By F. N. SCATENA, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

The next oral examination of the Board of Medical Examiners will be held at the Board office, 515 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, May 18, 1944. Oral examinations are required of reciprocity applicants coming from other states, whose licenses were issued by the sister state more than ten years before the filing date in California. Applications must be received in the Sacramento office of the Board at least two weeks prior to the date of the oral examination.

As previously announced in this column, the next written examination of the Board of Medical Examiners will be held at Native Sons Hall, San Francisco, June 27 to 29, 1944. Due to the accelerated courses of the medical schools, frequent written examinations have been conducted during the past year, thus making available as soon as possible doctors for military service, as well as licensed physicians and surgeons for civilian practice in this State.

News

"Sixty-six persons passed the California examination for physicians and surgeons held in San Francisco from January 4 to 6, it was announced today by the State Board of Medical Examiners. . . ." (Oakland Tribune, March 13, 1944.)

"Only duly licensed physicians and surgeons may issue pre-marital certificates, Attorney General Robert W. Kenny ruled yesterday in answer to a request for an opinion from Wilton L. Halverson, director of public health. Drugless practitioners, including chiropractors, cannot issue the certificates, Kenny said." (Los Angeles Examiner, March 25, 1944.)

"For the first time since compulsory Army induction began, examining doctors at induction centers in San Francisco today had on hand actual case records of many of the men appearing before them, showing their medical histories as far as state, county or welfare records can provide them. With the aid of the Community Chest, 36 trained social workers here have volunteered each week to help assemble available data for the medical 'screening' process, so that Army physicians can know a man's past medical history better than any routine questionnaire would show it. A step sought by doctors for more than two years, this plan is expected to keep out of military service many men who go to pieces and perhaps prevent such breakdowns as was considered responsible for the shooting of several persons in Los Angeles this week by a berserk Army officer. . . . The nation paid more than \$35,000 for every case of psychiatric breakdown in the last war, many of them among men who never saw combat, Dr. Bowman recalled. . . ." (San Francisco News, March 9, 1944.)

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6. News items are submitted by the Secretary of the Board.